

ARTIE PHILLIPS



What He's Wearing:
Jacket: Soul of London
Shirt: Bugatchi
Jeans: Mavi

AP Painting Solutions Ltd. has been providing Windsor-Essex and Kent County customers with quality service for nearly a decade, specializing in commercial painting, epoxy flooring, and mobile power washing.

"We've really expanded over the last couple of years especially," says owner Artie Phillips. "Our other commercial exterior services go hand in hand with a lot of the big painting jobs we do."

The main focus of the business began as commercial painting, but quickly grew to include a division for epoxy flooring for commercial and industrial applications, as well as some residential garages and basements.

In the last year, Artie and his team have also started a power washing division, with a mobile truck on the road six days a week.

"It's something that's really coincided with the painting side of the business," he says.

Artie got his start in the industry over 12 years ago, priming walls for a large contractor in Calgary. From there, he honed his skills and began managing his own crew. Upon his return to Windsor, Artie went into business for himself and has been busy ever since, with a team of 12 full-time workers, 4 part-time employees and two office staff.

"My team is great; from our Leads and field staff, to our office staff," says Artie.

Despite the challenges COVID-19 has presented over the last several months, Artie and his crew have managed to persevere; working steadily while ensuring the safety of both staff and customers.

"My team has done an amazing job at being diligent on a daily basis," says Artie. "Whether it's working together or out meeting clients, they've really adapted."

Artie can't say enough about his dedicated crew, noting they always put in extra time and effort to get the job done.

"They work hard and do an exceptional job," says Artie. "Without these guys I don't eat, so I like to focus my business around what they need."

That focus included creating an employee benefits package for his team this past year. He's also looking into adding an RRSP plan in 2021.

"I want to keep people in a position where they're happy and they want to stay," says Artie. "I care about every one of my team and I want to make sure everyone is safe and feels confident about what they're doing."

Artie himself isn't one to rest on his laurels, alternating days in the office and out in the field. Between phone calls with contractors, pouring over prints and helping out his team, his daily schedule fills up fast.

"My day-to-day schedule can really change quite drastically, even in the middle of the day," he laughs. "We're extremely busy right now."

So busy, in fact, Artie is looking to expand his business once again.

"We could easily hire two to three more crews right now to keep up with the workload," he notes.

That busy work schedule includes the recently completed 850 Division Road, a fair size project for the team. They've just started work on the old TRW building in Twin Oaks as well, another large exterior/interior project.

They're also currently in the midst of revamping the LCBO building at the Roundhouse Centre, Brave Controls on Walker Road, the U of W Student Center and St. Clair College's Student Residence.

"These have been exciting projects for us," says Artie.

Tackling all those projects requires a little cooperation from Mother Nature; especially this time of year.

"It can get tricky," notes Artie. "There really is a lot of science involved in exterior projects. Weather conditions are huge; we have to look at what material we're using and when we're using it. We have to look at surface temperatures and dew points and make sure the conditions are right for curing."

As busy as he is, it's not all work for Artie. In his spare time, he enjoys golf, hockey and spending time with his two daughters, who share his love of sports.

"My girls are 7 and 12. They enjoy horseback riding, gymnastics, and skating," says Artie. "We have a lot of fun together."

To put Artie and his team to work for you, visit www.appaintingsolutions.com or call 519-966-8890.



Story by Jennifer Brignall-Strong. Photo by Pat Scandale